



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, November 18, 2013**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Dr. Michael Noyes called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM, and customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Dr. Michael Noyes acknowledged the members who would not be in attendance on this date. Dr. Noyes informed the board that on October 1, 2013 a letter of invitation to join CJAB was sent to the Honorable Sheffie Kadane, City of Dallas Councilmember. A copy of the letter was made a part of the packet for this meeting.

Dr. Noyes notified the board that he was relinquishing his seat as chair of the Fair Defense subcommittee. He stated that with the passing of HB1318 and the current stability of the committee, he is respectfully stepping down as chair. Dr. Noyes nominated Lynn Richardson, Dallas County's Chief Public Defender and committee member to succeed him as chair.

A motion was made to accept the nomination for Lynn Richardson to be appointed chairperson of the CJAB Fair Defense subcommittee. The motion was seconded, and approved.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on September 16, 2013 were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Presentation- Michael Laughlin, (U.S. Probation Office):**

Michael Laughlin is a senior U.S. Probation Officer and Workforce Development Specialist with the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services - Texas Northern District. A copy of the presentation was made a part of the packet for this meeting beginning on page 11. Officer Laughlin gave a brief personal history and presented information regarding the Northern District of Texas Reentry Webportal. He stated that the website was designed out of a need for more resources and direction for ex-offenders, prisons, jails, and families. The goals of the site are to improve public safety, recidivism, and stability, and to also prepare and equip ex-offenders by consolidating information. Officer Laughlin stated that there was a consortium of stakeholders and partners who established this site including Federal/state/local officials, higher education institutions, churches, legislators, defense attorneys, and prosecutors to name a few. Officer Laughlin displayed the website/portal and navigated through a few pages to exhibit the

various topics, easy narratives, layout, and hyperlinks to over 100 "webpages" leading to "1,000's of outside resources/links". The webportal can be accessed by visiting [www.txnp.uscourts.gov](http://www.txnp.uscourts.gov). Officer Laughlin entertained questions and asked the board to get the word out and encouraged use of and feedback for the site. Michael Laughlin can be reached by phone at 214-766-2312 or by email at [Michael\\_laughlin@txnp.uscourts.gov](mailto:Michael_laughlin@txnp.uscourts.gov) for any additional questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Reentry:**

Christina Crain stated that the presentation was a great segue into the reentry report. Beginning on Page 32 of the packet Ms. Crain has provided an overview of DOORS 2013 programs. She gave a brief background of the organization and stated that the mission of DOORS is to reduce recidivism in the community by two means:

- Serving as a "Reentry Advocate" for formerly incarcerated persons and their families by assessing their needs and sending them to "expert" service providers for services, including job placement; and
- Serving as a "Reentry Educator and Trainer" for families, service providers and the community so that all have the tools at their disposal necessary to effectively work, serve and relate to this very special under-served population.

Some of the services include; assessing the needs of the formally incarcerated utilizing various assessment tools such as the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), the Behaviors and Experiences Inventory (BEI), and the Benefits Calculator. Additional services are creating a targeted custom plan of action based on the assessment tools, and linking clients to existing employment/job placement programs, including job readiness training. DOORS will monitor their client's progress for up to four (4) years to ensure their success.

DOORS was recently awarded \$1.2 million in grant funding from the Governor's Office to begin a statewide initiative. They have six (6) reentry case managers that are working out of a couple of TDCJ units. They begin assessment services for referred inmates prior to their release to help jumpstart their reentry plan. DOORS has partnered with a number of agencies currently providing reentry services. Ms. Crain stated that one of the goals of the CJAB Reentry subcommittee is to create a website that will provide access to some of the same services that DOORS is providing and links to the U.S. Probation Office's and Tarrant County's reentry websites. Ms. Crain reported that Tarrant County is scheduled to attend the next Reentry subcommittee meeting and present their website.

#### **Courts:**

Judge Robert Burns reported that the criminal district courts have continued to review how jury trials are assigned and reassigned. One change suggested by Judge Magnis that has been implemented is if there is a case with a "vulnerable" victim that is set on a day that the court of assignment is unable to hear that case, one of the other 16 of 17 Criminal District Court Judges that is available will hear the case. This will help to move cases more expeditiously. Lynn Richardson asked how the new Michael Morton Act will potentially affect the court process. Judge Burns explained the Michael Morton Act was passed during the most recent legislative session, and it will require more on the part of the prosecution in regards to making discovery evidence available to the defense. Judge Burns stated that the requirement will be on the District Attorney's (DA's) Office to ensure that they have the necessary resources to facilitate the requirements of the Act. Mr. Stretcher inquired as to if the Adult Case Management System (ACMS) will assist in making this discovery evidence more easily accessible. Durrand Hill, Assistant DA, indicated that he was not able to respond to the question, but he would relay the question to Ellyce Lindberg. There was some additional discussion regarding how the law should be interpreted once it takes effect on January 1, 2014.

**Fair Defense Committee:**

Lynn Richardson, the newly elected chairperson of the Fair Defense subcommittee, thanked Dr. Noyes for his efforts during his tenure as chairperson and for nominating her. Ms. Richardson directed the board's attention to a handout which encompassed the notes from the Fair Defense committee meeting held on November 13, 2013. She reported that Dallas County received a positive report from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) as a result of their recent follow-up visit with only one remaining area of concern. The area of concern is the distribution of misdemeanor appointments. On October 22, 2013 Patricia Johnson, County Criminal Court Manager, prepared a response to address the distribution of misdemeanor appointments. Also discussed in the meeting was the passing of HB1318 which requires defense attorneys to report the percentage of cases they are appointed to handle. The Public Defender's Office will report 100%, however every private defense attorney that receives appointed cases will also be required to report to TIDC. Failure to report could result in removal from the appointment list (Wheel). There will also be a requirement of each County to report the amount of money being paid to each attorney receiving court appointments. Ms. Richardson also shared information regarding an upcoming weighted case study that will be conducted by TIDC to research the number of cases that are assigned to each attorney in the Public Defender Office's in Texas. Her office is currently in discussion with County officials regarding any liability that may result from participating in the study. The last item of discussion was regarding the Election of Counsel (EOC) forms being received from the municipalities that are not participating in the video arraignment process. The quantity of forms being received has exposed the need for resources to process the EOCs and the need for ACMS to come on line to automate the assignment of a court to all defendants even those in the remote jails. After some additional discussion Dr. Noyes congratulated Ms. Richardson on her new appointment.

**Law Enforcement:**

Chief Jimmy Spivey reported that the committee met on November 4, 2013. He stated that despite other issues surrounding the criminal justice system the main topic of discussion in the LEA meeting was the transportation of inmates from the City jails to the County jail. Chief Spivey stated that all of the municipalities agree that the most efficient means of transporting the inmates is for the Sheriff's Department to continue to provide this service. However, the issue then becomes cost and who should pay for the cost of this service. Currently, there is an MOU in place that requires each municipality to pay a prorated share of the cost and this MOU is in place through FY2014. During the November LEA meeting the committee voted to request the County resume full responsibility for the cost of transporting inmates. Chief Spivey indicated that Dallas County's Budget Officer Ryan Brown also attended the meeting and offered an alternative of a flat fee, however the consensus of the committee was overwhelmingly in favor of the County assuming the cost. Chief Spivey formally recommended that CJAB endorse the LEA subcommittee recommendation to request Dallas County Commissioner's Court to consider resuming responsibility for the cost to transport inmates from the City jails to the County Jail beginning FY2015. Dr. Noyes stated that he was uncomfortable proceeding with this important recommendation before the CJAB in the absence of the chairperson Commissioner Garcia. He suggested that a small subcommittee be formed to further discuss all available options with all of the stakeholders. Dr. Noyes suggested that this meeting be scheduled prior to January 1, 2014. Ryan Brown added that the County would be very interested in engaging in this discussion as well as a discussion regarding the rollout of DCIM, ACMS, and a pilot for video visitation and how this will impact the municipalities. Chief Steve Dye stated that the LEAs and specifically Grand Prairie are open to discussions around electronic filing and video arraignment, but wants to make sure that it's done effectively and efficiently for all sides.

\*Dr. Noyes will work on scheduling this meeting between the LEAs and the County.

**Public Policy:**

Craig Pardue with Dallas County reported that the interim charges are due out by the first of the year. Dr. Noyes suggested that the committee meet soon to begin discussions and development of a CJAB agenda for the next session.

**Jail Population Update:**

Mr. Stretcher reported on the Jail Population meeting held on November 15, 2013 and the excerpts from that meeting could be found on pages 17 through 25 of the packet. The current jail population for this date is 6,323. He stated that if anyone had any specific question to please feel free to contact him or Mr. Pugh.

**Justice of the Peace:**

Ron Stretcher reported in Judge Steve Seider's absence that the JP courts recently held a daylong community court at the Stewpot to accommodate some of the homeless population with outstanding tickets. The court session went well with approximately 50 defendants appearing. They were able to have their cases adjudicated and received community service hours to immediately discharge their sentences. He also reported that the JP courts are still working on addressing contract issues with their case management system and hope to have them resolved soon.

**Crisis Services Project (SIP):**

Mr. Stretcher reported that the Crisis Services Project (CSP) is up and running and ready to fold the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) into the project. Discussions are being held with the City Detention Center (CDC) about incorporating two case managers at the CDC to triage the serial inebriates to see if they are ready to participate in SIP. Updates are forthcoming.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Dr. Terry Smith reported that the committee met on November 13, 2013 and the minutes from that meeting were made a part of the packet for this meeting and can be found on pages 29 through 31. Dr. Smith stated that the Juvenile Justice committee also discussed the TIDC visit and report as well as HB1318. She stated that Tech Share has moved to the next level of development and would like to begin discussions with the municipalities regarding remote filing and the de-commission of JIS. Dr. Smith also reported that the video arraignment process for certified youth is going well and thanked Mr. Steele for his help in this area. Also reported was a legislative initiative to raise the age of an adult to 18 for the purposes of incarceration. Dr. Smith would like the Public Policy committee to monitor this legislation. She believes this would be a good idea because it will help to avoid PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) issues in the County Jail. There was also discussion about utilizing local facilities for placement as opposed to sending them to facilities out of the County.

**Jurisprudence:**

Ron Stretcher reported in Ellyce Lindberg's absence. The minutes from the meeting held on October 10, 2013 were made a part of the packet for this meeting beginning on page 26. He reported that the copier for the defense attorney's workroom should be activated within the next couple of days. The committee also had discussions about the impact of the Michael Morton Act, morning docket calls, and increasing video pleas to expedite case movement.

**Research:**

Dr. Stephen Bishopp reported in Dr. Robert Morris's absence. He congratulated Dr. Morris and his wife on the birth of their new child. Dr. Bishopp reported that the committee held its inaugural meeting on October 29, 2013 and the minutes from that meeting have been made a part the packet for this meeting beginning on page 38. The meeting was intended to be a starting point for all members to "brainstorm" ideas concerning future research. The committee discussed expanding the research that has started around pretrial release practices and the

initiation of a recidivism study. There was also a discussion about conducting a study on Police Officers wait time in the jail, bench warrants, and the use of various assessment tools. Also, discussed was a study on the frequent flyers and their use of the system as a whole. The committee is interested in helping to conduct research studies that will help maximize overall effectiveness of criminal justice resources throughout Dallas County. Dr. Smith asked if an MOU was being developed to allow this research. Ron Stretcher responded that there will be an MOU developed to ensure compliance with Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) security policies.

**Announcements:**

The next CJAB meeting will be January 27, 2014.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 4:00 PM.